

Fair tonight and Saturday.  
Colder tonight.

# The Washington Times

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WASHINGTON, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 7, 1906.

PRICE ONE CENT.

## Three Students Die, Two Fatally Burned In Fire at Cornell

Three Firemen Killed by  
Falling Walls of Ruin-  
ed Fiske-McGraw  
Mansion.

STUDENTS IN BED  
WHEN FIRE STARTED

Burned Building Isolated  
and Ithaca Volunteer Fire-  
men Were Slow to  
Reach Scene.

ITHACA, N. Y., Dec. 7.—Five men  
are dead, two fatally injured, and  
a number seriously injured as a re-  
sult of a fire which started at 3:30  
this morning and entirely destroyed  
the Chi Psi fraternity house of Cor-  
nell University.

The fire started in the kitchen range  
and quickly spread through the big  
fraternity house which was formerly  
the Fiske-McGraw mansion, and was  
valued at \$200,000.

Volunteer firemen responded to the  
call, but so rapidly had the flames  
spread that it was with difficulty that  
any of the students were rescued.

The three firemen were killed by col-  
lapsing walls.

Fire Protection Inadequate.

The Fiske-McGraw mansion stood at  
the extreme east end of the campus  
on a knoll and was almost isolated.  
The fire protection was inadequate and  
it was half an hour before the fire de-  
partment reached the scene.

Twenty-seven students were sleeping  
in the fraternity house when the flames  
were discovered. H. S. DeCamp, a stu-  
dent, was aroused by smoke. He found  
the halls in flames and barely escaped  
by sliding down the side of the house  
on a drain pipe. The others were shut  
off from escape in their rooms. Those  
who escaped jumped from their win-  
dows.

Desperate Attempt to Escape.

James McCutcheon, Jr., and Clarence  
J. Cope, who were fatally injured, tried  
to run the gauntlet of fire in the halls.  
When they reached the door they  
fell unconscious. The skin had been  
burned from the flesh and blood cover-  
ed their naked bodies.

There were several thrilling rescues.  
Horace Halliday, former captain of the  
football team, climbed a ladder and by  
means of a rope succeeded in lowering  
himself to a window where he rescued  
H. M. Curry, A. P. Gibson and Harold  
Earle, halfbacks on the football team,  
succeeded in saving the life of another  
student.

Firemen Were Late Arriving.

The firemen, late in arriving on the  
scene, found the water supply wholly  
inadequate for fighting the flames, and  
confined their efforts to preventing a  
spread of the blaze.

When the fire finally burned itself  
out the companies returned to Ithaca  
all save one hose crew of three men,  
which was pouring a stream into an  
open window when the wall fell, burying  
them and crushing all three almost be-  
yond recognition.

The Chi Psi Fraternity is one of the  
richest and most exclusive at Cornell.

ROOT GOES TO NEW YORK.  
MISSES CABINET MEETING

If the Japanese situation was dis-  
cussed at the cabinet meeting today, it  
was without the participation of the  
Secretary of State, who is spending the  
week-end in New York.

Secretary Root left the city yesterday  
afternoon at 1 o'clock and will not re-  
turn to his office till next Monday morn-  
ing.

LONG SENTENCE FOR THUG.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 7.—James  
O'Malley, the first person to be tried on  
charges growing out of the recent rob-  
beries in this city, was sentenced by  
Judge Evans, at the close of a two-hour  
trial, to twenty years in the western  
penitentiary.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Thursday's storm is passing off to sea  
over New England and a second dis-  
turbance is advancing eastward over  
the northern Rocky mountain region.  
Snow continues along the lower lakes,  
but elsewhere the weather has cleared.  
In temperature there is very general fall  
in the eastward, the fall since Tues-  
day morning being as much as 49 de-  
grees in some places.

Fair weather is probable in the Wash-  
ington forecast district tonight and  
Saturday.

It will be colder tonight in Atlantic  
coast districts and warmer Saturday in  
the lower lake region and the Ohio val-  
ley. The temperature tonight in east-  
ern districts will fall considerably be-  
low freezing.

Steamers departing today for Eu-  
ropean ports will have brisk north-  
westerly winds and fair weather to the  
Grand Banks.

TEMPERATURE.

9 a. m. 32°  
12 m. 32°  
1 p. m. 32°

SUN TABLE.

Sun sets today 4:58  
Sun rises tomorrow 7:06

TIDE TABLE.

High tide today 5:15 P. M.  
High tide tomorrow 5:42 P. M.  
Low tide today 12:35 A. M., 1:15 P. M.  
Low tide tomorrow 12:35 A. M., 1:15 P. M.

HARPERS FERRY, W. Va., Dec. 7.—

Both rivers clear.

"I strangled Dona Gil-  
man.

"She did not holler.

"I carried her body to  
the common.

"On my knees I cried  
and resolved to touch no  
other girl.

"Then I smoked a cigar,  
went home, and went to  
bed."

## STRANGLED GIRL AFTER ASSAULT; THEN HID BOY

Dona Gilman Murdered  
By Man Who Followed  
Her From Car.

DAYTON, Ohio, Dec. 7.—The slayer of  
Dona Gilman has been brought to jus-  
tice by a staff representative of the Cin-  
cinnati Post, who continued work after  
the authorities had virtually admitted  
defeat. David Curtis, twenty-seven, a  
clerk, was arrested last night on infor-  
mation furnished by the Post man and  
he confessed. He said that he rode on  
the same car with Dona Gilman on the  
night that she was slain and left the  
car at the same corner. He took one  
side of the street while the girl walked  
on the other and when they had passed  
a house where a woman and a child  
stood in the doorway, he crossed over,  
took the girl's umbrella away from her  
and choked her to death. He says that  
she never uttered a cry. After he had  
killed her he carried the body over on  
the common, he said.

Curtis has been at work in Dayton all  
the time since the murder.

Met Her in Car.

Here is Curtis' confession:  
"I saw Dona Gilman on the night that  
I assaulted and murdered her when she  
got on a Fifth street car at Fifth and  
Brown streets. I sat next to her. She  
was reading a book. 'What's the matter  
with my going home with you, Dona?'"

"Oh, I ain't afraid," she said.  
"I used to work in the paint depart-  
ment at the Cash Register Works and  
I used to deliver papers to her home. I  
knew her."

"I had a package to deliver to Stuart's  
drug store, at the soldiers' hotel."

He Followed Her.

"When the car stopped at the 'Point'"

she got off.  
"I got off behind her and followed till  
she got to the commons. Then I grab-  
bed her by the throat. She never hol-  
tered a bit."

"I grabbed her, and she did not move.  
I dragged her into the commons. After-  
ward I picked her up and carried her  
across the street and laid her down  
carefully."

"I came back down Groveland avenue  
and I went into Rocky's grocery and  
bought a cigar."

Cried Over Body.

"Then I walked on up to Stuart's drug  
store, at the 'Hollow' and left the pack-  
age of calendars I had to deliver. Then  
I went home, on Ingraham street, and  
left my long black raincoat."

"I came back down town at 11 o'clock  
and went to bed. I choked her to death.  
I knew she was dead. When I saw she  
was dead I got down on my knees and  
cried. I said I would never touch au-  
other girl."

Curtis hints at other crimes that the  
officials feel sure will come in detail at  
a later time.

## PANIC IN BROADWAY FOLLOWS SHOOTING OF STOCK BROKER

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—In the midst of  
a great Broadway noon hour throng,  
Thomas O'Connor, of 291 Wadsworth  
avenue, drew a revolver as he was pass-  
ing Exchange place and fired two shots  
at a man believed to be W. R. Henning,  
a broker, wounding the latter in the leg.  
There was a panic among the crowd as  
Henning fell. There was also the great-  
est excitement within a cafe, as one of  
the two bullets fired by O'Connor went  
through the plate glass window, narrow-  
ly missing a number of men at luncheon.

It was plain O'Connor and Henning  
knew each other. O'Connor made no  
attempt to escape, he submitted calmly  
to a patrolman. Henning's wound is a  
serious one. The bullet had struck him  
in the right leg and coursed upward.  
Passers-by carried him into the cafe.  
Neither Henning nor O'Connor would  
make any statement, whatever.

ALL-AMERICANS WIN  
TWO FROM CURAN NINE

HAVANA, Dec. 7.—Following are the  
scores of the baseball games played  
yesterday: First game—All Americans,  
8; Havana, 2. Second game—All Americans,  
2; Havana, 1.

WOMAN TOO ECONOMICAL.

Because Mamie Johnson would not let  
him spend a dollar for her yesterday,  
Samuel Richardson proceeded to beat  
her with his fists. As a result, he was  
arrested last night for assault and was  
today arraigned before Judge Melloway  
in the Police Court. He was sent to  
jail for four months.

## POLICY OF THE SOUTHERN WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED

Career of President Finley

William Wilson Finley was  
born on September 2, 1853, at  
Pass Christian, Miss.

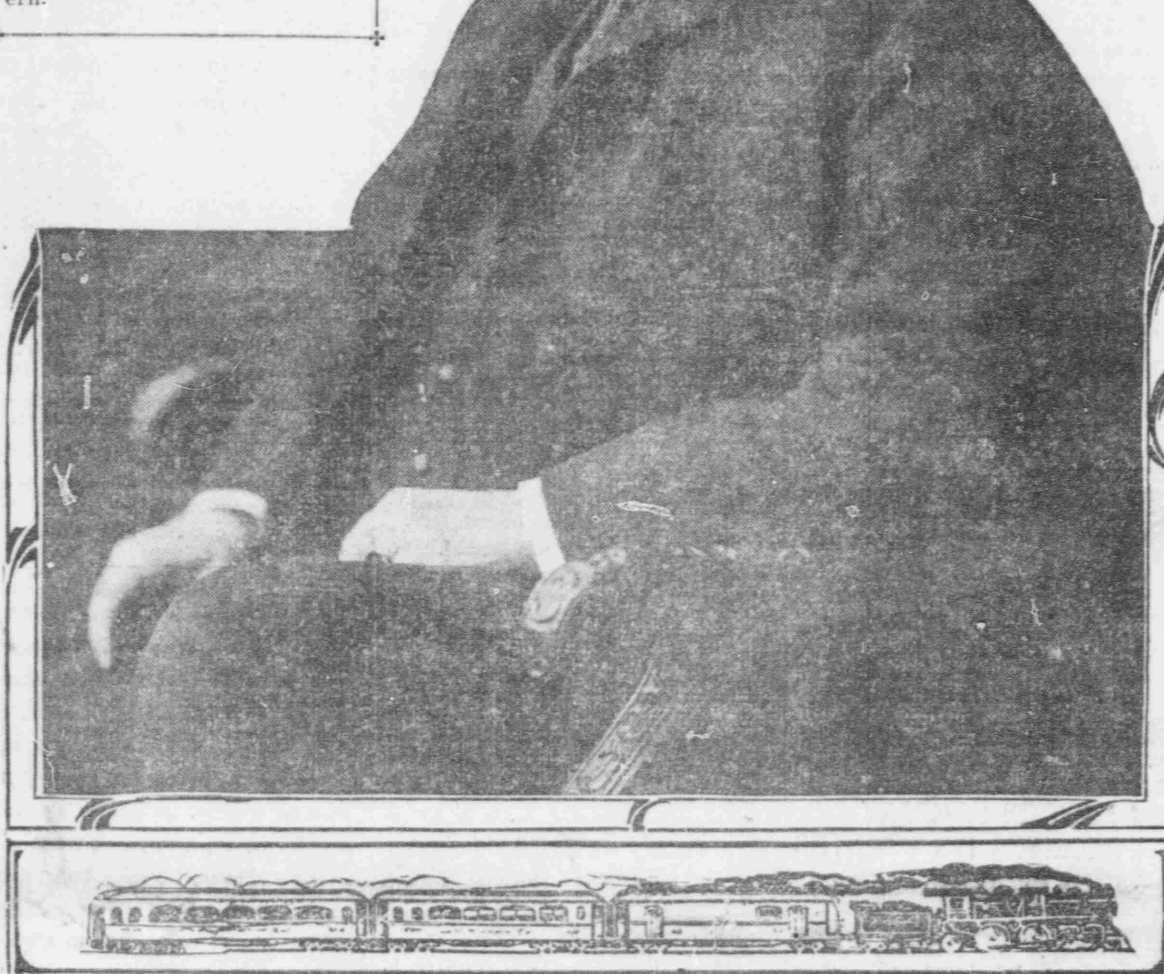
In 1883 was appointed assistant  
general freight agent of the  
Texas Pacific division of the Mis-  
souri Pacific road.

Became assistant general  
freight agent for the receiver  
of the Texas Pacific.

In 1888 became general freight  
agent of the Pan Handle route.  
Went over to the Great North-  
ern railway.

In 1895 second vice president  
of the Southern.

1906, president of the South-  
ern.



WILLIAM WILSON FINLEY,  
The New President of the Southern Railway.

## Finley Enters Upon Duties As President

Successor to Late President  
Spencer, of Southern Rail-  
way, Takes Charge.

President William W. Finley, who  
was several days ago chosen to suc-  
ceed the late Samuel Spencer as the  
chief executive of the Southern rail-  
road, took charge of the office at Thir-  
teenth street and Pennsylvania avenue  
northwest, this morning.

Mr. Finley was warmly greeted at  
the office and has received many con-  
gratulatory telegrams and letters from  
friends.

Some time was spent by Mr. Finley  
in the second vice president's office,  
formerly occupied by him. There was  
some little unfinished business on the  
desk, and after clearing this out of the  
building for the United States by regu-  
latory telegrams and letters from  
friends.

Mr. Spencer's policy will be carried  
out and continued by his successor, Mr.  
Finley. He contemplates no material  
changes in the system or the personnel  
of the office. The investigation of the  
Southern will be made his head-  
quarters in the general office in Wash-  
ington. He has a palatial residence on  
Massachusetts avenue, and after exten-  
sive repairs have been completed he will  
move from 1215 Connecticut avenue to  
his new home.

Mr. Finley was in New York at the  
time of his election to the presidency.  
Although he was second to Col. A. B.  
Andrews, first vice president of the  
Southern, who acted as president after  
Mr. Spencer's untimely death, Mr. Fin-  
ley was regarded as the best man for  
the office and the directors, recognizing  
his sterling worth, selected him.

No action regarding the horrible  
wreck at Lawyers, Va., on Thanksgiving  
Day will be taken by Mr. Finley until  
a brief has been already filed with the  
committee. Mr. Hedgeland alleged Mr.  
Putnam has been over active in furth-  
er the interests of the music publish-  
ers in the new copyright bill. He par-  
ticularly complained of Mr. Putnam's  
activity for paragraph G of the bill  
which prohibits the use of copyrighted  
musical productions on graphophones  
and other mechanical musical instru-  
ments.

Demands an Investigation.

Mr. Hedgeland had communicated his  
charges to the President, and is demand-  
ing a Congressional investigation of the  
copyright office and Mr. Putnam's re-  
lations to this part of the bill. It is as-  
serted by Mr. Hedgeland that the para-  
graph would operate so as to give a  
right of property to the composer.

## Miss Norma Munro Coming Back To Fight Mrs. Leslie Carter-Payne In Matter of \$41,799 Attachments

Miss Munro's Lawyer Admits She Has Blown in  
Over a Million on Her Friends, But Denies  
Claim of "Zaza" Creator.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—Lawyer Henry  
B. Clark has announced that he will  
cable to Paris today requesting Miss  
Norma L. Munro to return to New York  
immediately to fight the attachments  
for \$41,799 obtained by Mrs. Leslie Car-  
ter-Payne, the actress, against her  
former friend, Miss Munro, Clark  
says, will certainly come back and will  
ask the court to dissolve the attach-  
ments. A list of the items comprising  
the claim of Mrs. Carter-Payne has  
been filed with Lawyer Clark. One item  
of \$500 he said was a loan made to  
Emma Calve in last November. The  
diva wrote to Miss Munro that she  
needed \$500 in a hurry.

Money From Brother.

Miss Munro did not have the money  
and applied to Mrs. Carter-Payne and  
the two went to Henry Munro, Norma's  
brother, and he advanced the money  
with the understanding that it was to  
be repaid within a week. At the end of  
a week Mrs. Carter-Payne paid the  
money to Munro.

"Dudley Carter tried to get an auto-  
mobile in controversy between the two  
actresses while Miss Munro was at  
Monmouth Beach last summer," said  
Clark. "One time he came down there  
at 4 o'clock in the morning and tried to  
take it out of Miss Munro's barn."  
"Henry Munro and friend got wind he  
was coming and slept near by and gave  
him a warm reception."

It's a Washington Pup.

Mr. Clark said with regard to the  
\$200 item relating to the dog Dimple,  
that the dog is now in the possession of  
Mrs. Carter. When he got wind that  
Mrs. Carter was to make various claims  
against Miss Munro, he hunted up the  
man in Washington from whom Dimple,  
a Boston bull terrier, was bought.

The lawyer holds a long legal docu-  
ment which states that the former  
owner of Euclid Dimple, which is the  
terrier's full name, has absolutely  
claim against Miss Munro.

Miss Munro's lawyer said he did not  
know anything about Mrs. Carter's  
claim for presents to Tunis Dean, who  
was formerly Mrs. Carter's personal  
manager, David Helasco and others, but  
that Norma Munro's only fault had  
been her generosity to her friends.

Norma Too Generous.

"When Norman Munro died he left  
about \$1,500,000, and nearly all of that  
has been spent by Norma on her  
friends," said Mr. Clark.

"I don't just figure out why Mrs. Car-  
ter paid \$10,000 for gifts that were cred-  
ited to Miss Munro."

The attachments were directed against  
property at 21 Vandewater street and 28  
Central Park South, asserted to be  
owned by Miss Munro. The lawyer  
says that Miss Munro transferred her  
interest in this property to her mother  
to settle an indebtedness of \$150,000.  
Lawyer Clark declares the suit was  
brought after Miss Munro went to Paris,  
simply to annoy her.

## DEAD IN BATH WITH GAS JET TURNED ON FULL

John Cropper, Retired  
Lawyer, Victim of Ac-  
cidental Asphyxiation  
at His Home.

BODY DISCOVERED  
BY HOUSE SERVANT

Dead Man Was Prominent  
in Club and Social  
Life of the  
City.

John Cropper, a retired lawyer,  
prominent in club and social life in  
this city, was found dead in the  
bathroom on the second floor of his  
home, 1742 N street northwest,  
about 7 o'clock this morning with  
the gas turned on full head.

Following an investigation of the  
circumstances that led up to his  
death, Coroner Nevitt gave a cer-  
tificate of accidental asphyxiation.

Mr. Cropper retired about 11  
o'clock last night, after having  
spent the evening with friends. He  
appeared to be in the best of  
health, and was in an unusually jo-  
vial mood. Mrs. Cropper is visit-  
ing friends in New York, and, ex-  
cept for the servants, he was alone  
in the house.

When one of the maids came down-  
stairs this morning she detected the  
odor of escaping gas, which she traced  
to the bathroom. Opening the door she  
saw Mr. Cropper in a sitting position,  
his head lying on his chest and appar-  
ently dead. A physician was called and  
upon his arrival pronounced life ex-  
tinct.

Before summoning Dr. J. R. Brom-  
well, of 1147 Connecticut avenue, the  
family physician, the maid telephoned  
Gen. H. Oswald Evans, U. S. A., a  
member of the Isthmian Canal Com-  
mission, who was a close personal friend  
of Mr. Cropper. General Ernst lives  
at 1221 Connecticut avenue.

Believes It Purely Accidental.

General Ernst was the first person  
after the physician to arrive at the  
house, and he is certain that the af-  
fair was purely accidental. He said  
to a Times reporter this morning: "My  
theory is that the gas in the bathroom  
had been burning all night. When Mr.  
Cropper went to the bathroom this  
morning it was still rather dark, but  
probably light enough so that the gas  
was not necessary. I believe that in  
some manner he brushed against the  
thumb screw of the gas jet, turning out  
the light. Whether he brushed against  
it again, turning on the gas uncon-  
sciously, or whether he turned the  
screw with his hand believing that he  
was cutting the flow off, is something  
that can never be known."

Mrs. Cropper Informed.

An effort was made immediately to  
communicate with Mrs. Cropper both by  
telephone and telegraph. Friends of the  
family were unable to locate her until  
after 9 o'clock, when they succeeded in  
communicating with a friend, who said  
she would notify Mrs. Cropper. No ar-  
rangements for the funeral will be made  
until she arrives in Washington.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Cropper have been  
prominent in Washington society for  
more than twenty years. Mr. Cropper  
was born in New York city fifty-six  
years ago. He was admitted to the bar  
of the District of Columbia several  
years ago, but never practiced his pro-  
fession.

Shock to His Friends.

News of his sudden death came as a  
great shock to his many friends in the  
Metropolitan and Chevy Chase Clubs,  
in the affairs of which he took an active  
part. He was a member of the Cin-  
cinnati Society, and of the Society of  
the War of 1812.

His wife was Miss Ann McLane,  
daughter of the late Robert McLane,  
at one time minister to Paris. Mrs.  
Cropper is considered one of the wealth-  
iest women in the smart set of this  
city, and Mr. Cropper was also left a  
handsome fortune and a large estate on  
the eastern shore of Maryland by his  
father.

Mrs. Cropper is a member of the So-  
ciety of the Colonial Dames, the Society  
of the Colonial Wars, and the Washing-  
ton Club. The couple owned an exten-  
sive country estate at Buena Vista, Md.,  
where they spent many summers. Dur-  
ing the last few years they have travel-  
ed abroad considerably, but have al-  
ways been in Washington for several  
months during the summer.

General Ernest Overcome.

When seen at his office this morning  
General Ernst was completely overcome  
by the death of his friend. He paid  
Mr. Cropper many tributes of his un-  
bounded generosity and charity, and  
spoke highly of the character of the  
man.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Cropper have al-  
ways been present at the most exclu-  
sive social functions given in this city,  
and his death will be the source of deep  
regret in a large circle of friends.

\$1.25 to Baltimore and Return

via Pennsylvania Railroad, every Satur-  
day and Sunday. All regular trains ex-  
cept the "Congressional Limited." Tick-  
ets good to return until Sunday night.